

BIOSOLIDS EXPERT PANEL

Environment Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes

Date: December 11, 2007

Location: VA Dept. of Fire Programs Office, 1005 Technology Park Drive, Glen Allen, VA

Panel Members Present:

- **Jerre Creighton**, Virginia Department of Forestry
- **Barry Dunkley**, City of Danville
- **Russ Baxter**, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
- **Dr. Greg Evanylo**, Virginia Tech Department of Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences
- **James Golden**, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
- **Dr. Robert Hale**, Virginia Institute of Marine Science
- **Dr. Howard Kator**, Virginia Institute of Marine Science
- **Karen Pallansch**, Alexandria Sanitation Authority
- **Christopher Peot**, Blue Plains
- **Dr. Alan Rubin**, consultant (principal Envirostrategies, LLC)
- **Henry Staudinger**, Citizen representative
- **Dr. Jonathan Sleeman**, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
- **Dr. Rima B. Franklin**, Virginia Commonwealth University Center for Environmental Studies
- **Dr. W. Lee Daniels**, Virginia Tech Department of Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences

Four members of the panel that indicated they wanted to participate in the environment work-group were unavailable to attend on this date:

- **Dr. Ralph O. Allen**, University of Virginia School of Medicine
- **Tom Fox**, Virginia Tech Department of Forestry
- **Scott P. Johnson**, Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- **Karen Pallansch**, Alexandria Sanitation Authority

Supporting staff present:

- **Jeff Corbin**, Office of the Secretary of Natural Resources
- **Angela Neilan**, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
- **Neil Zahradka**, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

Minutes

Assistant Secretary of Natural Resources Jeff Corbin brought the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

The panel voted to approve the minutes from the October Environmental Workgroup meeting.

Angela Neilan read through a threaded conversation summary of last environmental workgroup meeting, and then led the workgroup through a formative agenda building discussion. While this exercise was intended to frame the discussion for the December 11th meeting only, it developed into the framing of the overall focus of the environmental workgroup. The following outline of concepts to be examined by the environmental workgroup was developed:

- I. Risk Assessment
 - a. Dr. Burke, who chaired the NAS study on biosolids, was recommended as a speaker for the January 23rd, 2008 meeting
 - b. A speaker on the strengths and weaknesses of EPA Part 503 rule
 - c. Risk management
 - d. Voluntary risk vs. involuntary risk
 - e. Benefits associated with risk
 - f. Relative risk of biosolids vs. other sources of pollutants should be considered (e.g. animal manure, other permitted discharges)
 - g. Risk to wildlife, including aquatic species
 - h. Accumulation in food
 - i. Research
 - i. VIMS/UNC Project with National Institute of Health
 - ii. Bioassay research in general (biological indicators and effects)
 - iii. Soil quality research in general
 - iv. Sally Brown - wildlife
 - v. Ian Pepper - aerosol transport
 - vi. Wayne Nutter
- II. Analysis of Biosolids Content
 - a. Information request from waste water treatment plants supplying biosolids that are land applied in Virginia
 - i. Verification of impartial analysis
 - b. The panel will examine the results of the EPA national sludge survey (publication expected in 2008)
 - c. Are constituents problematic?
 - i. Matrix (microbials, metals, organics, nutrients)
 - ii. Endpoints (fate and transport)
- III. NMPs/Agronomic Rates
 - a. DCR and DEQ existing regulatory requirements (panel requested summary from agencies)
 - b. Pollution sensitive sites
 - i. Identification
 - ii. Adequacy of buffers
 - c. DEQ will be responsible for compliance assurance
- IV. Alternative Treatment Technologies

This is a DRAFT compilation of minutes as revised 1-17-2008. This document has not been accepted by the panel and is subject to revision to ensure accuracy.

- a. Impact of technology on neighboring community
 - b. What is happening in other states?
 - c. Presentation from marketers of new technology
 - d. Specific technologies
 - i. Mono-fills (landfills dedicated to one input)
- V. Field Trip
 - a. Land application site in spring
- VI. EMS Programs
 - a. DEQ Environmental Excellence Program
 - b. National Biosolids Partnership

The above six topic areas would be considered as primary agenda items for upcoming meetings. For the first four topics, the following would be considered:

- 1) Academic Review vs. Policy Generation (i.e. the panel should consider the state of the science as well as generate a response)
- 2) Unknowns regarding the topic

Public Comment

- 1) Mary Carwile made an observation regarding the suggestion that a field trip be held in the spring when land application was actively occurring. She stated that land application does occur in the winter months.
- 2) Mary Graf commented regarding the request to be sent to the treatment plants supplying biosolids to Virginia. She was concerned about the potential bias of the data provided. Barry Dunkley responded that outside labs as well as waste water plant labs conduct sampling. Mrs. Graf requested that the analyst information be included with the results. In addition, Mrs. Graf asked that speakers offer full disclosure as to their sources of research funding.

Jeff Corbin adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.